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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,067	12/11/2003	Katsuichi Minami	MAT-8493US	1264
23122	7590	01/17/2006		EXAMINER
RATNERPRESTIA				WILLIAMS, MARK A
P O BOX 980				
VALLEY FORGE, PA	19482-0980		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	

DATE MAILED: 01/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/735,067	MINAMI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mark A. Williams	3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/15/05.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 9-11, 13, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohacik et al., US Patent 5,682,644, in view of Sasame et al., US Patent 3,929,596. Bohacik provides an opening and closing device adapted to be coupled to a moveable part of a second device, the opening and closing device comprising a case 11 in substantially tubular shape including a first end face near 12 having a first through-hole in a center thereof; a stator 25 facing the first end face inside the case, the stator having a portion 16 extending from a stator face; a rotor 15 accommodated in the case and facing the stator, the rotor being rotatable with respect to the stator; a spring 42 for pushing the rotor to the stator; wherein the portion of the stator extending from the stator face is disposed through an opening in a slide member in the form of a friction bushing 19. The stator has a stator cam 24 projected toward opposite to the first end face, wherein the rotor has

a rotor cam 28 projected toward the stator wherein the spring pushes the rotor in a direction in which the rotor cam is contacted with the stator cam. A cover 44 for covering an opening of a second end face of the case (end of the tubular casing near 46), wherein the cover is rotatable with respect to the case, wherein the spring is interposed in a contracted manner between the cover and the rotor. A fixed shaft 48 is provided as claimed.

Bohacik discloses the claimed invention except the bushing 19 also being a lubrication means, including a metal plate with a lubricant layer as claimed, were the plate can be a disk washer. Sasame teaches the general known concept of using a coating on sliding metal members or the like for the purpose of providing lubricating properties, thereby reducing frictional ware. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one skilled in the art to use such a member in the device of Bohacik for the purpose of providing lubricating properties, thereby reducing frictional ware. Although Bohacik does not explicitly disclose a metal disk, it is well established in the art of hinges, bearings, and like members to use such members for such purposes, and is considered an obvious modification. Such a modification is not critical to the design, nor would it have solved any stated problem.

3. Claims 6-8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohacik et al. in view of Sasame et al. in further view of Mischenko, US Patent 6,065,187. Bohacik does not explicitly provide teaching of second and third sliding members as claimed. Mischenko provides this teaching at 2808 and 2810, for the purpose of reducing frictional contact between elements. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one skilled in the art to have included in the design of Bohcik such a modification for the purpose of reducing frictional contact between elements.

4. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohacik et al. in view of Sasame et al. in further view of Murray, US Patent 5,996,178 and Bacroft, US Patent 4,713,861. The combination does not teach the first end face of the case being formed of a molded member of lubricating material, and the first end face serves as the lubricant means; nor the stator being formed of a molded member of lubricating material, and the stator serves as the lubricant means. Both Murray and Bacroft teach hinge elements being of molded material having lubricating properties, for the purpose of reducing friction between elements. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to have included in

the design of the combination such a modification, for the purpose of reducing friction between elements of the hinge.

5. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohacik et al. in view of Sasame et al. in further view of Japanese Patent JP 6323325 A ('325). The combination disclosed the claimed invention except teaching fluoride in the lubricating material. Patent '325 teaches a lubricating material containing a fluoride, for the purpose of improving the wear resistance of the material. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one skilled in the art to have included in the design of the combination such a modification, for the purpose of improving the wear resistance of the material.

6. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohacik et al. in view of Sasame et al. in further view of Wilcox et al., US Patent 5,628,089. Although the combination does not explicitly include first and second foldable housings and the case being to the first housing and the stator fixed to the second housing, as claimed, such an arrangement is well known in the art and has been used in a variety of electronic devices. Wilcox shows such an arrangement in the application of a cell phone, including a similar hinge arrangement as claimed

by applicant. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one skilled in the art to have included such a modification in the device of the combination, for the purpose of gaining the benefit of such a hinge design in the application of an electronic device, such as a cell phone.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. In view of applicant's amendments, new art has been discovered and applied in the above rejections.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A. Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-7064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on (571) 272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark Williams
11/25/05

MW

Brian Glessner
BRIAN E. GLESSNER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER